AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a network component operable to employ a) one or more call characteristics to make a determination to initiate a request to a switch component for one or more positions of one or more mobile stations and b) at least one [[or more]] call parameter [[parameters]] to identify one or more cellular network cells associated with the one or more mobile stations, wherein the at least one call parameter ~~of the one or more call parameters~~ employed to identify one of the one or more cellular network cells is a telephony number of at least one of the one or more mobile stations; and

wherein the network component is operable to receive, in response to the request, the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations from a position component operable to determine the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations continuously; and

wherein the network component comprises one of a magnetic data storage medium, an optical data storage medium, a biological data storage medium, or an atomic data storage medium.

2. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component is operable to perform a comparison of the one or more call characteristics with one or more thresholds to make the determination to initiate the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the one or more call characteristics comprise a pilot signal strength characteristic, and wherein the one or more thresholds comprise a pilot signal strength threshold, and wherein the network component is operable to perform a comparison of the pilot signal strength characteristic with the pilot signal strength threshold; and

wherein the network component makes the determination to initiate the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations based on a result of the comparison of the pilot signal strength characteristic with the pilot signal strength threshold.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the network component is operable to employ the one or more call characteristics to create one or more call statistics, and wherein the one or more thresholds comprise one or more call characteristic thresholds and one or more call statistic thresholds; and

wherein the network component is operable to perform a comparison of the one or more call statistics with the one or more call statistic thresholds; and

wherein the network component is operable to employ a comparison of the one or more call characteristics with the one or more call characteristic thresholds and the comparison of the one or more call statistics with the one or more call statistic thresholds to make the determination to initiate the request.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the network component comprises an interface, and wherein the network component is operable to receive the one or more thresholds from a service provider through employment of the interface.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component is operable to employ the determination to initiate the request to promote an avoidance of congestion in one or more cellular network communication paths.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the network component makes the determination to initiate the request upon an exceedance of the one or more call characteristics relative to one or more thresholds; and

wherein upon the exceedance of the one or more call characteristics relative to the one or more thresholds, the network component and the position component are operable to cooperate to obtain the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein upon a termination of the exceedance of the one or more call characteristics relative to the one or more thresholds, the network component and the position component are operable to cooperate to discontinue attainment of the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component is operable to employ the one or more call characteristics to perform a selection of the one or more mobile stations from a plurality of mobile stations; and

wherein the network component is operable to employ the selection to formulate the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations from the plurality of mobile stations.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more mobile stations are associated with the one or more cellular network cells; and

wherein the network component is operable to employ the one or more call characteristics to perform a selection of the one or more cellular network cells from a plurality of cellular network cells; and

wherein the network component is operable to employ the selection to formulate the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations that are associated with the one or more cellular network cells.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the network component is operable to employ the switch component to identify the one or more mobile stations that are associated with the one or more cellular network cells; and

wherein the network component is operable to employ the switch component to determine the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations that are associated with the one or more cellular network cells.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component is operable to receive the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations in response to the request; and

wherein the network component is operable to employ the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations and the one or more call characteristics to develop a coverage map.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

the switch component that is operable to provide the one or more call characteristics to the network component;

wherein the network component is operable to employ the one or more call characteristics to make a determination to initiate a request to the switch component; and

wherein the switch component is operable to obtain the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations based on the request to the switch component.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the network component is operable to provide to the switch component the <u>at least</u> one [[or more]] call <u>parameter</u> [[parameters]]; and

wherein the switch component is operable to employ the <u>at least</u> one [[or more]] call <u>parameter</u> [[parameters]] to perform an identification of the one or more mobile stations from a plurality of mobile stations; and

wherein the switch component is operable to employ the identification of the one or more mobile stations from the plurality of mobile stations to obtain the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the one or more mobile stations are associated with one or more calls; and

wherein the switch component is operable to employ the at least one [[or more]] call parameter [[parameters]] to perform an identification of the one or more calls from a plurality of calls; and

wherein the switch component is operable to employ the identification of the one or more calls from the plurality of calls to obtain the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations that are associated with the one or more calls.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the network component and the switch component are operable to receive the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations from the position component; and

wherein the network component and the switch component are operable to cooperate to develop a coverage map through employment of the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the position component is operable to employ one or more of an Enhanced Forward Link Trilateration algorithm and an IS-801 solution using an Assisted Global Positioning System (AGPS), Advanced Forward Link Trilateration (AFLT) or combined AGPS/AFLT algorithm to determine the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

18. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

initiating a request from a network component to a switch component for one or more positions of one or more mobile stations through employment of a) one or more call characteristics and b) at least one [[or more]] call parameter [[parameters]] to identify one or more cellular network cells associated with the one or more mobile stations, wherein the at least one call parameter ~~of the one or more call parameters~~ employed to identify one of the one or more cellular network cells is a telephony number of at least one of the one or more mobile stations;

receiving, in response to the request, the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations; and

determining the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations continuously;

wherein the network component comprises one of a magnetic data storage medium, an optical data storage medium, a biological data storage medium, or an atomic data storage medium.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of initiating the request from the network component to the switch component for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations through employment of the one or more call characteristics further comprises the steps of:

performing a comparison of the one or more call characteristics with one or more thresholds; and

initiating the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations based on the comparison.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of initiating the request from the network component to the switch component for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations based on the comparison further comprises the steps of:

determining the at least one [[or more]] call parameter [[parameters]] associated with the one or more thresholds;

identifying the one or more mobile stations from a plurality of mobile stations through employment of the at least one [[or more]] call parameter [[parameters]]; and

initiating the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations through employment of the at least one [[or more]] call parameter [[parameters]].

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the position component is pre-provisioned with one or more intervals of time to determine the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the thresholds provide a measure of a quality level of service provided to the one or more mobile stations.

24. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component is operable to employ the at least one [[or more]] call parameter [[parameters]] to identify i) the one or more cellular network cells associated with the one or more mobile stations or ii) the one or more mobile stations.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component is operable to limit a number of requests for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations based on a comparison of the one or more call characteristics with one or more thresholds.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein one of the one or more call statistics is a number of dropped calls within an hour.